

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 53 are being canceled by this Amendment. New claims 54 – 72 are being entered at this time.

Listing of Claims:

1 – 53 (canceled)

54. (new) An apparatus comprising:

- a forming roll;
- a drying cylinder positioned downstream of the forming roll;
- an air press positioned between the forming roll and the drying cylinder;
- a molding fabric and a first fabric sandwiched together and traveling through the air press, and;
- wherein the air press is installed to direct a pressurized fluid through the molding fabric first and then through the first fabric.

55. (new) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the air press comprises a pressurized air plenum adjacent the molding fabric and a vacuum box adjacent the first fabric.

56. (new) The apparatus of claim 55 wherein the air press is integrally sealed with a wet web residing between the molding fabric and the first fabric.

57. (new) The apparatus of 55 wherein the pressurized fluid comprises air.

58. (new) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the first fabric comprises a support fabric.

59. (new) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the first fabric comprises a forming fabric.

60. (new) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the drying cylinder comprises a Yankee dryer.

61. (new) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the forming roll comprises a portion of a crescent-former.

62. (new) The apparatus of claim 55 comprising:

- an endless molding fabric loop containing the forming roll, the air plenum, and a pressure roll for pressing the molding fabric against the drying cylinder;
- an endless forming fabric loop converging and diverging with the molding fabric and wrapping at least a portion of the forming roll; and

a headbox positioned proximate to the converging forming fabric and molding fabric near the forming roll.

63. (new) The apparatus of claim 62 wherein the endless forming fabric extends past the air press and the vacuum box of the air press is contained within the endless forming fabric.
64. (new) The apparatus of claim 63 wherein the air press is integrally sealed with a wet web residing between the molding fabric and the forming fabric.
65. (new) The apparatus of claim 62 comprising an endless support fabric positioned downstream of the endless forming fabric, the endless support fabric containing the vacuum box of the air press, and the endless support fabric sandwiched together with the molding fabric while traveling through the air press.
66. (new) The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the air press is integrally sealed with a wet web residing between the molding fabric and the support fabric.
67. (new) The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the endless support fabric extends past the air press and wraps at least a portion of the pressure roll.
68. (new) The apparatus of claim 67 wherein the air press is integrally sealed with a wet web residing between the molding fabric and the support fabric.
69. (new) The apparatus of claim 54 produced by the process of modifying a crescent-former wet-pressed tissue machine comprising the steps of:
 - removing the felt from the crescent-former wet-pressed tissue machine;
 - installing the air press between the forming roll and the drying cylinder of the crescent-former wet-pressed tissue machine; and
 - installing an endless molding fabric to encircle the forming roll and a pressure roll of the crescent-former tissue machine.
70. (new) The apparatus of claim 69 further comprising the steps of:
 - extending the forming fabric of the crescent-former wet-pressed tissue machine past the air press;
 - installing a pressurized air plenum of the air press adjacent the molding fabric; and
 - installing a vacuum box of the air press adjacent the forming fabric.
71. (new) The apparatus of claim 69 further comprising the steps of:
 - installing an endless support fabric between the forming roll and the drying cylinder;
 - installing a pressurized air plenum of the air press adjacent the molding fabric; and
 - installing a vacuum box of the air press adjacent the support fabric.

72. (new) The apparatus of claim 71 further comprising the steps of extending the support fabric to wrap at least a portion of the pressure roll.